

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 FEAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 NSCE-00 /085 W

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O 141700Z APR 75

FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5702

AEC GERMANTOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L IAEA VIENNA 3151

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, TECH, IAEA, SF

SUBJECT: HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM OF US ORIGIN IN
SOUTH AFRICA

AEC PASS H. BROWN, NRC

REF: (A) TELCON BLOOM, OES/LABOWITZ, APRIL 14

(B) TELCON BROWN, NRC/LABOWTIZ, APRIL 14

1. IAEA INSPECTOR GEN. ROMETSCH ADVISES THAT LAST IAEA INSPECTION SAFARI RESEARCH REACTOR, PELINDABA, CARRIED OUT MARCH 11 AND 12, 1975 RPT 1975. AT THAT TIME, INSPECTOR UTILIZED INSTRUMENT (RECENTLY DEVELOPED FOR SUCH USE) TO VERIFY CONTENT EACH OF 220 FUEL ELEMENTS PRESENT IN FACILITY AT THAT TIME, TOTALLING 35-5 KG 7. RESULTS OF INSPECTION WERE PERFECTLY SATISFACTORY.

2. FIFTY-SIX OF ELEMENTS WERE FRESH, AS RECEIVED FROM U.S. FABRICATOR, CONTAINING 11.6 KU U, 93 PERCENT U-235.

3. THIRTY FOUR ELEMENTS, CONTAINING 5.2 KG U, INITIALLY 93 PERCENT U-235; IN CORE.

4. ONE HUNDRED THIRTY IRRADIATED ELEMENTS IN POND,
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CONTAINING 18.7 KG U, AVERAGING 80 PERCENT U-235.

5. ROMETSCH DID NOT CONSIDER NUMBER OF FRESH ELEMENTS EXCESSIVE IN LIGHT HIGH POWER RATING (20 MW) OF REACTOR, WHICH IS AMONG HIGHEST FOR POOL-TYPE.

6. LAST SHIPMENT HEU ELEMENTS FOR US ACCORDING TO IAEA RECORDS OCCURED JAN. 1975. SOME IRRADIATED ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN SHIPPED FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO FRANCE FOR REPROCESSING. UNDER PARA. 22 A OF INFCIRC/66/REV. 2, ANY PRODUCED PU CONTAINED IN SUCH ELEMENTS IS EXEMPTED FROM SAFEGUARDS SINCE RATE OF PU PRODUCTION SAFARI REACTOR IS LESS THAN 100 GRAMS RPT GRAMS PER YEAR. IN ACCORD PARA. 26 (B) (I) SAME DOCUMENT, IRRADIATED ELEMENTS SHIPPED FROM SOUTH AFRICA HAVE BEEN DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO US AS "UNIMPROVED" NUCLEAR MATERIAL. NEITHER ROMETSCH NOR MISSION AWARE OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISPOSITION OF ENRICHED U RECOVERED IN FRANCE.

7. IAEA INSPECTIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE TWO TO THREE TIMES PER YEAR. INSPECTORS REPORT AHT SOUTH AFRICA IS ONE OF MOST COOPERATIVE GOVERNMENTS.

8. FOREGOING INFO PROVIDED BY ROMETSCH FOR INTERNAL USG USE. MISSION HAS DISCUSSED WITH SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR VON SCHIRNDING DESIRABILITY OF USG BEING IN POSITION UTILIZE SUCH INFO PUBLICLY. HE STATED HE UNABLE AUTHORIZE IAEA PROVIDE SUCH INFO TO USG PARTICULARLY FOR PUBLIC USE, BUT WOULD SEEK SUCH AUTHORIZATION IMMEDIATELY ON URGENT BASIS. MISSION WILL ADVISE WHEN INFORMED RESULT. PORTER

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